

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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For Immediate Release

WEATHERHEAD FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO CLEVELAND ART MUSEUM

The Cleveland Museum of Art has been awarded a grant of \$15,000 from The Weatherhead Foundation in support of the Museum's Extension Exhibitions department. This department has been providing without charge, a unique community service to educational and social-welfare institutions in Cuyahoga County since 1918.

The department furnishes institutions with supplementary visual education which may combine various media such as painting, ceramic, textiles, prints. The purpose is to develop through art a richer understanding of human cultures and to stimulate imagination and creative expression. The department's collection was begun in 1915, a year before the Museum officially opened. By 1918, the first extension exhibitions were sent out and installed in small cases in The Cleveland Public Library and a few branch libraries; in 1920, city high schools were also benefiting from exhibits. By 1935, nearly 75 schools had acquired cases specifically for this purpose; these were placed in locations where classes could meet to study the objects.

In 1937 the Museum began acquiring objects on a regular basis to meet the growing educational requirements of the schools. The collection has also been augmented by gifts specifically designated for the extension program. Today there are more than 16,000 objects in the collection, nonetheless, requests for loans continue to exceed the department's facilities.

Exhibits are loaned to schools for a six-week period. Teachers frequently

consult with members of the department to discuss the subject under study and what the teacher hopes to accomplish. The exhibit is then designed by the staff, packed and transported to the school where it is installed with descriptive labels. Within the past year, more than 1,000 case exhibits were sent out to 147 schools and libraries.

Institutions lacking facilities for case exhibits are offered special wall panel sets. Designed to illustrate a variety of subjects, these consist of pictures accompanied by an explanatory text and mounted on wall panels. Loans are up to six weeks.

Framed paintings and prints are lent on an extended basis (usually annual) to schools, settlement houses, child-care centers, centers for the elderly, libraries, hospitals and other institutions. Hung only in public areas, the pictures are frequently used for analysis by art classes or used as a story point for groups of young children. More than 650 loans of this sort have been made in the past year.

Three extension galleries house special exhibits which are changed every three months. Exhibition subjects are selected at joint meetings of Museum staff and representatives of the organization concerned. The Museum supplies the art object, cases and other exhibition props and is responsible for transportation and complete installation.

The extension galleries are: The Library Art Gallery which is located in the main building of The Cleveland Public Library just off Public Square; Karamu Art Gallery, at Karamu House which is an integrated neighbourhood community center; Lakewood Civic Art Gallery, on the west side of Cleveland in Lakewood High School and immediately adjacent to Lakewood Civic Auditorium.

The Weatherhead Foundation's contribution enables the Museum to maintain its community services and to keep pace with expanding interest. The funds provide substantial relief, inasmuch as the Museum has predicted a considerable deficit for the period covered by the Weatherhead grant.

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